

Mercer County Fair Association

PO Box 640, Beulah, ND 58523
www.mercercountyfair.com

2022 Fair Board Directors
Rick Bauman, President
Rick Skraba, Vice President
Jeff Klein, Treasurer
Craig Askim, Secretary
Valerie Bauman
Donna Buchmann
Aaron Kasper
Vern Muscha
Chandler Sailer
Dawn Sailer
Tracy Siemieniowski
Rita Skraba
Tiffany Weigum

MEETING MINUTES

Bee's Café, Hazen
Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Bauman at 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Craig Askim, Rick Bauman, Val Bauman, Donna Buchmann, Aaron Kasper, Jeff Klein, Chandler Sailer, Dawn Sailer, Tiffany Weigum

Members Absent: Vern Muscha, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, Tracy Siemieniowski

Guests Present: Brenda Weigum

Secretary's Minutes – Tiffany moved to accept the minutes as emailed. Chandler seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff reported the balance on hand as of May 4, 2022 is \$73,450.08. Rick stated he received an additional \$4,000 in donations. Donna moved to accept the treasurer's report. Dawn seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Jeff received a letter from Heritage Insurance to renew the liability insurance for this year. He will talk to them next week.

Old Business:

- **Audit Update** – Jeff stated Don LaFleur from Mandan, conducted the audit and everything is in line with the bank statements over the last three years. The only issue is that beer garden and gate sales are down but the board knows the overall attendance at the fair in 2021 was high. This amount can't be traced because most of these sales are cash. Don suggested that gate sales and people need to be counted with the use of tickets or armbands and not stamps.
- **Parade** – Rick B. talked to AL Schmidt and said he will help with the parade but doesn't want to be in charge of it. Val talked to the Beulah Chamber and they said it is a mess right now with no president. The current vice president and administrator will not be able to run it this year. The Board will keep working on it to see if the parade can happen.
- **Hoop Barns** – Rick B. said the blocks and covers have been ordered and a down payment has been written for them. The Union Bank verbally approved the request for a loan for this project. Rick doesn't have a written copy as of yet because the appraisal may take two more weeks to complete. Ground work on the hoop barns is planned to start June 1. The City of Beulah approved the Planning and Zoning permit for this project and we have it in hand. Letters of notice were sent to area businesses and residents within 300 feet of the hoop barns as required by Planning and Zoning. The public notice date for this is set for May 25. Rick B. Jeff and Craig drafted a grant application April 30 to Farm Credit Services to request \$50,000 to help pay for the hoop barns. Rick B. confirmed that Farm Credit received the application.

Old Business (Continued):

- **Schedule of Events** – Tiffany finalized the times for the spinning wheel demonstrations and the Iron Will shows, so the schedule is done and will be sent to the Beacon for printing next week. The schedule is on the website. Board members are encouraged to start PR for the event.
- **Livestock Show** – Tiffany presented a flyer of the buckles she wants to provide for prizes for the livestock open shows. The total amount she needs for buckles for all the winners is \$1,764. Jeff moved to allow Tiffany to purchase the buckles. Aaron seconded. Motion carried. Tiffany presented the championship banners and ring wrap for the livestock open class show. They would cost about \$4,000. She asked the board for approval. After discussion the board tabled this until the next meeting to see how much sponsorship money will come in to help pay for the banners. The total cost to run the livestock open show is about \$16,000.
- **Committee Reports** – No other reports.
- **Premium Books** – About 95% of the materials and information for the books is finalized. The remaining information should be finalized in the next week so it can be sent to print.
- **Website** – Val reported that she and others have been working on the website. The schedule of events is current. The commercial and food vendors letters are listed. She heard from all but two of the food vendors to date. A few commercial vendor booths have been requested.
- **Hog Barn Improvements** – Rick S. informed Rick B. that he will be ordering gravel and crushed rock next week and plans to pour concrete the end of May. Aaron and Rick will start getting a crew lined up to work on the arena, hopefully by May 8. Rick B. is trying to get a permit to build a crow's nest by the arena in June.
- **Arena Improvements** – The improvements to redo the sorting pens are in progress.

New Business:

- **Beer Garden Help** – Letters were sent to fire department chiefs in Mercer County. Pick City said they would like to work the beer gardens on Sunday and keep the tips. Stanton fire department stated they did not want to help. The Beulah Lions Club stated to Tiffany they would be willing to help Saturday night of the fair, if the board needs them. The other departments have not responded as of yet.
- **Ticket Booth** – Val said the Beulah Chamber will try to get a message to members but the board is trying to restructure. Val plans to go to the meeting on May 18. Craig stated he went to the Hazen Chamber meeting on April 21 and reached out to them. They would be willing to help at the ticket booth once a schedule is in place. Val will work with Tiffany to use a computer program for a schedule of time slots and days that people can work. The Board needs two people at a booth during a shift at the south and east gates. The Board will need to staff the gate by the fire hall and the gate by the wash rack. These gates will only be open at set times and will not be open to the general public.
- **Advertising** – Rick B. stated an ad will be coming out in the Dollar Saver in the May 14 issue. He will reach out to other outlets. Dawn and Tracy stated they will help Rick B. with the advertising. All board members need to take a part in advertising by using whatever methods are available to them such as social media, twitter, etc.

New Business (Continued):

- **Computer** – Jeff asked the board to purchase an additional computer for \$1,400. The board only has one ShoWorks program, which is to be used to run the open class livestock and static shows. The \$1,400 would be the cost of the computer and an additional license for the ShoWorks program. Tiffany moved to purchase the computer and one additional ShoWorks program. Dawn seconded. Motion carried.
- **Fair Expenses** - Rick B. said the total expenses for the fair to date are around \$55,000. This is about \$5,000 more than the 2021 fair, due to the higher cost of everything.

Other Business: None

Next meeting: Next meeting date is May 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Country Kettle in Beulah.

Tiffany moved to adjourn the meeting. Donna seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by: Craig Askim, CEA/Fair Board Secretary